

Senate Bill 381

By: Senators Beach of the 21st, Staton of the 18th and Albers of the 56th

**AS PASSED**

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 38-3-57 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the  
2 establishment of a standardized, verifiable, performance based unified incident command  
3 system for emergencies, so as to provide planning for first informer broadcasters in the  
4 unified incident command system and the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan; to provide  
5 a short title; to provide for definitions; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting  
6 laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Georgia First Informer Broadcasters Act."

10 **SECTION 2.**

11 Code Section 38-3-57 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the  
12 establishment of a standardized, verifiable, performance based unified incident command  
13 system for emergencies, is amended by adding a new subsection to read as follows:

14 "(f)(1) As used in this subsection, the term:

15 (A) 'Broadcaster' means any corporation or other entity that is primarily engaged in the  
16 business of broadcasting video or audio programming, whether through the public  
17 airwaves, cable, direct or indirect satellite transmission, or any other similar means of  
18 communication.

19 (B) 'Emergency' means the declaration of a state of emergency or disaster as provided  
20 in Code Section 38-3-51 or as presidentially declared.

21 (C) 'First informer broadcaster' means a broadcaster in Georgia who makes application  
22 to the Georgia Emergency Management Agency for designation as a first informer  
23 broadcaster and who is granted such designation as a first informer broadcaster  
24 pursuant to rules and regulations promulgated by the director of emergency  
25 management.

26 (2) The unified incident command system and the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan  
27 shall, by July 1, 2016, establish planning for first informer broadcasters such that first  
28 informer broadcasters, to any extent practicable, may during an emergency:

29 (A) Have access to areas affected by an emergency for the purpose of restoring,  
30 repairing, or resupplying any facility or equipment critical to the ability of a broadcaster  
31 to acquire, produce, or transmit emergency related programming, including but not  
32 limited to repairing and maintaining transmitters and generators and transporting fuel  
33 for generators;

34 (B) Have access to the distribution of fuel, food, water, supplies, equipment, and any  
35 other materials necessary for maintaining or producing a broadcast or broadcasting  
36 signal; and

37 (C) Not have vehicles, fuel, food, water, and any other materials seized or condemned  
38 that are essential for maintaining or producing a broadcast or broadcasting signal.

39 (3) The Georgia Emergency Management Agency may develop or adopt courses of  
40 instruction for use in training personnel of first informer broadcasters on personal safety  
41 and navigation in an area affected by an emergency. The requirements of any such  
42 training shall be established pursuant to rules and regulations promulgated by the director  
43 of emergency management. The costs of any such training shall be paid by the first  
44 informer broadcasters participating in the training."

45 **SECTION 3.**

46 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.